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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS,

A N D

Bulletin of American Numismatic and Archæological Societies.

VOL. XXVI.

BOSTON, APRIL, 1892.

No. 4.

HOW DID THE ANCIENTS STRIKE THEIR COINS?

THE first number of the *Revue Belge de Numismatique* for 1892 has an interesting study on the methods used by the ancients in engraving the dies for their coins, and in striking them, by Mons. V. Lemaire, of Gand, which we should be glad to present to readers in full, had we space in the *Journal*; we must however content ourselves by giving a very free translation of some of the salient points of this valuable paper, in which the author attempts to establish the position that these dies were engraved on steel by a lathe, much as they have been cut in modern times, and then describes the methods by which, as he conceives, they were struck.

He begins by stating the accepted theory that as all admit, the Greeks did not possess the powerful machinery of modern times for striking their coins, and that it is generally believed that the dies were cut by hand, not on steel, but bronze, and struck by a heavy blow from a hammer or similar tool, as appears from a Denarius of T. Carisius, and a copper coin of Paestum, and then develops his own theory.

On what grounds, he asks, is the assertion made that the dies for Greek money were of bronze, when none have come down to us, and there is no evidence in existing texts to show that such was the case. It seems to rest on the fact that there exist, in certain cabinets, four Gallic dies of bronze, or of *iron*, [he italicises the word iron, and calls special attention to the fact that he does so] and because it is known that the Gauls were the disciples and imitators of the Greeks. This is not conclusive; let us see if a better argument to the contrary can be made. The idea has found support, for want of some better explanation, that the ancients struck their coins by means of dies of bronze, a soft material; and this has proved so difficult of belief, that certain authors have not hesitated to express the opinion that the ancients knew how to harden bronze; these writers are rather deserving of pity for being powerless to establish the truth upon a firm foundation: artists and artisans used tools which were of sufficient temper to work the hardest materials; sculptors employed chisels to carve porphyry, which is harder than marble; they possessed gravers with which they were able to inscribe the hieroglyphic characters; was it with chisels and similar tools of bronze, that that admirable

image of Cheik-el Bebel, one of the chiefs of the band of workmen who constructed the Great Pyramid, was carved? Of what metal were made the delicate files and chisels of the goldsmiths? And the drills, the saws, the hammers, and all the various tools used for piercing or dividing wood, metal and stone — can we believe that these were made of bronze?

The ancients used steel, and their ornaments [*bijoux*] show the existence of the burin (or graver).

If one should attempt to show that the first dies of the larger Greek coins were engraved by a burin, it would be well for him to remember that there is good authority to show that these dies were cut by a lathe, by the engraver of gems. The proof of this is furnished by the money itself. The lathe was an instrument for engraving which was indispensable at that time; it was in universal use; it reigned supreme. The burin was powerless to engrave precious stones; the diamond alone had sufficient hardness to cut them.

The writer then proceeds to show how extensively precious stones and gems, beautifully cut or engraved, were worn and used as ornaments of the highest value, in adorning the statues of their divinities, as well as in a similar manner to the gems set in the brooches, rings and seals of modern times. The names of those artists and engravers whose master-pieces have come down to us, have not been forgotten, through all the centuries which have rolled away. Let us consider for a moment the tool which they employed. Mariette has given us its form and description in his "Treatise on Engraved Stones," vol. I, p. 207. It is a small lathe, similar to that which all the world knows to-day; it rests upon a stand or table of four feet, between which revolves a small wheel which is set in motion by a pedal or treadle; above the table is a little pulley, fitted with a hollow arbor, which is driven at a speed of about two thousand revolutions a minute, and operated by a cord or belt from the wheel below. Into the conical hollow of the arbor the workman inserts the tools with which he works; these are made of *soft iron*; at its outer end the tool tapers slightly, and has a small enlargement at the extremity, on which the engraver puts a little diamond powder and a drop of oil; the powder attaches itself firmly to the soft iron, the moment that is applied to the stone, and thus the tool becomes virtually a little grindstone of diamond, which is used to cut the device upon the gem.

Many writers have supposed that the tools which we have said above were of soft iron, were made of hardened steel; but this is a grave error; if they were of hardened steel, the diamond powder would not be retained upon them, nor would they cut the gem. This is a very important point to be remembered in the discussion of our subject.

When the engraver begins his work, he brings the face of the gem into contact with the tool; as the latter is constantly revolving in the same plane, the gem must be held in the hand, and moved as the case requires; and some of the tools are of such delicacy that great care is necessary, lest they be broken; if the danger is great with so small an object as a gem, what will it be when a die of heavy metal is used?

Mons. Lemaire then describes his personal experience, in an attempt to cut a die in imitation of the ancient ones, in bronze, by such a tool; and he shows that the diamond powder ceases to operate on the *bronze*

almost immediately, and cuts the *tool* instead; since, of necessity, it must be the *softer* material which will absorb the diamond powder, so to speak, and the *harder* which will be cut away. The bronze, being softer than the iron, appropriates the diamond dust, and the tool is destroyed; but when he used the same tool, with the diamond powder, upon a steel surface, the steel was cut, and the tool retained the powder, for the reason given.

From these facts he reasons that the Greeks, knowing the use of the lathe, were able to, and did, cut the dies of their coins upon steel. It has been proved that the existence of steel dies was known certainly as early as the first or second century of our era; it is not too much to claim that others of the same nature existed long before.

Passing from this, Mons. Lemaire goes on to show how he thinks the *bronze* dies which exist were prepared; since they could not possibly have been cut by a lathe, how were they made? His answer is, *by casting*; and he next gives his theory as to the manner in which this was accomplished. Let us enter the workshop of the goldsmith of Athens, who has received an order to strike money; probably he is not himself an engraver of gems; he must therefore, in the first place, have the type, which for convenience we will call a model, made by a lapidary; this having been obtained, he next prepares from this a mould, in sand, clay, or other suitable substance, and casts the die in bronze, in the usual manner; if this is done with proper care, the mould will be sufficiently perfect for the purposes for which it was designed; if not, it will be a matter of little or no difficulty to retouch such portions as may require it, with the graver. Should this not be sufficient, the entire die may be finished on the lathe, using a tool of softer metal than that of the die, so that the former may retain the diamond powder; if the weight of the die forbids this, then a diamond point fixed upon a small handle of wood, as the flint tipped the lances of primitive men, will accomplish the result. And thus the dies are ready for striking. It is an easy matter to repeat the process from the original model, whenever they become too much worn or defaced for further use.

M. Lenormand, in "*Monnaies et Medailles*," assures us that he possesses original dies of Roman coins of the first and second century of the Christian era; these are composed of a matrix cut on hardened steel, and mounted on a sort of conical base of bronze or iron: he further says, that from the earliest times until the fifth century all dies for coins were engraved by the lathe, as precious stones were cut; later, under the reign of the Princes of the family of Constantine, the process changed; and pieces were struck in cold metal, with dies cut by a burin. Mons. Lemaire does not accept this statement as absolutely correct; twelve centuries, he says, elapsed between the first use of coined money and the time of Constantine; that man must understand human nature but poorly who can believe that the art of engraving by the burin remained stationary for so long a period, while all other branches of art, of science and of literature, made such great advances. 'Nothing comes from nothing.' If indeed engraving by the burin ever replaced that by the lathe, as Lenormand suggests, it was because the burin, powerless when money was first used, had in time strengthened itself, and finally acquired sufficient force to displace its predecessor.

It must be admitted that for a long time the lathe did most of the work of die-cutting, if indeed it did not do it all: we may believe that not unfrequently the burin and the chisel performed a part of the labor; but dies of steel continued for long periods to depend for their perfection upon the lathe. It is difficult to imagine Kimon or Evainetos cutting the dies for their beautiful master-pieces upon anything but steel. Let no one imagine that it was the labor of a Cyclops to engrave a pair of dies upon a lathe; it needed no longer time than would have been required to cut them on some precious stone.

A pair of steel dies can furnish a far greater number of pieces than if made of bronze; the perfection of modern minting machinery allows the use of dies of the same size as the planchet; the ancient dies were of slightly larger diameter than the coins; they were encased in a block of bronze or iron, which served to sustain them under the demands upon them, and which could be readily replaced if needed. We fail to see anything to show that a good antique die was much if any inferior to those of our own day, nor any reason why artists of merit should have been unwilling to engrave their works upon steel. In case of necessity, or haste, when engravers were lacking, bronze dies would be sufficient, for these could easily be multiplied by casting, and hastily retouched if need be, and such dies would be capable of supplying a very large output.

The existence of steel dies for striking coins is well established at a period relatively near our own time. We may include among these the dies of the Gauls, the imitators of the processes of the Greeks, whose dies of "iron" we have mentioned above; but were not these dies really steel? For if these dies, which are known to be Gallic, are really iron, we are forced to the conclusion that the use of burins to engrave money, goes back to a much more distant period than has generally been supposed, since iron cannot be engraved by means of the lathe.

Is it possible, then, with our present knowledge, to fix exactly the time of the introduction of the use of steel, by means of Greek coins? Let us go back, in our investigation of this point, to the origin of money, and let us examine the first stater of the Lydian Kings. It bears the mark of three punches. We see three punch marks indented upon the planchet, by blows of a hammer, one after another, just as is done to-day in punching weights and measures. On what metal were these punches cut? Was it bronze? No one will dare to affirm that; no bronze, however hard it might be, could have endured so severe a trial, and surely no one would have undertaken the task of making new punches every fifteen minutes. Is it not more reasonable to believe that the punches were steel? The marks they made upon the planchet are so distinct as to justify us in declaring further that the punches¹ were cut by a lathe; made in steel, the operation of punching would be easy and rapid, and it is no exaggeration to say that such punches were able to stamp a hundred thousand impressions, when well made. They lasted in good condition as long as they were needed, if we may judge from the condition of the pieces that have come down to us. Have we not thus succeeded in tracing the use of steel in

¹ Mons. Lemaire is here referring to the so-called incused coins, and if we understand him correctly he includes in the term *poinçons*, which we translate punches, the matrix as well as the tool used in forcing the metal into the design.

connection with mintage, to the earliest times, and to the striking of the first piece?

We must not lose sight of the fact that at the first appearance of money the art of ornamenting metal in relief was already an accomplished fact; in raising a figure or ornamental design on a thin plate of metal, and manipulating the surface, both on the face and the back of the metal under treatment, the workman used hardened tools, made of small rods of steel, one end of which was formed in such a manner as to produce, by gentle blows from a hammer, the intended design on the metal; the step from work of this kind to that of punching the staters of the Kings of Lydia, was not a long one.

This use of steel in the ancient coinage, which we have mentioned, is not the only case which we have found. In "*Monnaies et Medailles*," we have seen a phototype reproduction of a silver piece of Methymne, on which we observe traces of an early application of steel. The reverse of this piece has been struck on a square hub, [*un carre en saillie*] bearing a bust of Athene, engraved in intaglio. The square is bordered by a series of dots, placed so near the edge that there is in one place a right angle where a small piece has been broken off; we believe that this square was of steel. Had it been of bronze, the evidence of the fracture would have had a different appearance. We should have seen a tearing away of the metal; instead of which we have a clean, sharp fracture. It must therefore be the case that the steel was tempered too hard; for if it had been only moderately hardened, the fractured piece would have shown signs of weakness before breaking.

We may mention still another proof that steel was employed in striking ancient coins; we have seen, in a private collection, a coin of silver, whose name escapes us, but which is of the third century before the Christian era; this was struck with a die which had broken into three pieces; a line running from one side of the coin to the other, shows where one-third of the die had split off from the rest; another straight line, perpendicular to the first, shows where the remaining portion of the die was broken in two; yet these three parts of the die remained in close connection; from which I conclude that the die had been imprisoned, as it were, in a mass of metal, in such a manner that the face of the die was not touched by the casting which held it; or else that the block which contained the die, had itself yielded under the pressure.

If then, we consider these early evidences, which could very likely be supplemented by further examples, showing that the ancient coins were struck from dies of hardened steel, and if weight be given to the experiments of the writer in engraving dies by means of a lathe on bronze, on soft iron, and on hardened steel, it is clear that the Greeks had gained sufficient knowledge of the art to be able to produce such dies when money was first used, and we shall be willing to admit that dies of steel have filled a far more important place in the mintage of the money and the medals of antiquity, than has been hitherto supposed.

We regret the necessity of condensing Mons. Lemaire's very bright and interesting paper, by the free translation which we are obliged to give, and which is all that the space at our disposal will permit; for it does not do that justice to his arguments that a more extended and literal rendering would do. His views on the methods by which the *striking* was accomplished — the concluding half of his paper — we hope to give to our readers in our next number.

THE MEDALS, JETONS, AND TOKENS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE
SCIENCE OF MEDICINE.

BY DR. HORATIO R. STORER, NEWPORT, R. I.

[Continued from Vol. XXVI, p. 59.]

Brown (John L. and Sons). Boston

331. *Obv. BROWN'S | BRONCHIAL | TROCHES | FOR | COUGHS AND COLDS.*
Metallic shell, enclosing postage stamps.
15.
In the Collection of Harvard University.

Browning Brothers. Philadelphia, Pa.

332. Silver, brass. 18.
Mercer, *loc. cit.*, 1881, p. 51, No. 224; Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 5027; Cogan, *loc. cit.*, No. 57.
In my collection.

Buffum. Pittsburgh, Pa.

333. Copper. 12.
Mercer, *loc. cit.*, 1881, p. 52, No. 239; Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 5273; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VIII, 1883, p. 165; Storer, *loc. cit.*, No. 192.
In the Wright Collection and my own.

Bunyan, W. & J. R. Kendalville, Ind.

334. Copper. 13.
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 1780; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VII, 1882, p. 66.

Burnett (Joseph & Co.) Boston.

335. *Obv. BURNETT'S | COCAINE | KALLISTON | TOILET SETS*
Metallic shells, enclosing post. stamps.
15.
In my collection.

336. BURNETT'S STANDARD EXTRACTS.
Metallic shell, enclosing stamp. 15.
Woodward, thirty-sixth Cat., 4-7 April, 1881, No. 885.

Burritt, H. Maumee City, Ohio.

337. Copper, brass. 13.
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, Nos. 4705-06; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VIII, 1883, p. 127.
In my collection.

Cary, H. G. O. Zanesville, Ohio.

338. Copper. 13.
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 4893; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VIII, 1883, p. 152, No. 2.
In my collection.

339. Copper. 13.
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 4894; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VIII, 1883, p. 152, No. 2a.

340. Copper, brass. 13.
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, Nos. 4895, 4896; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VIII, p. 151, No. 1.
In my collection.

341. Copper. 13.
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 4897.

Cassin. California.
342. "C's Bitters."
Shell (silver dollar).
Mercer, *loc. cit.*, 1884, p. 48.

Castle, W. B. Sandwich, Ill.

343. Copper. 13.
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 1629; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VII, 1882, p. 22, No. 1.
Caswell, Hazard & Co. New York, and Newport, R. I.

344. Vulcanite. 20.
Mercer, *loc. cit.*, 1884, p. 41.

Chamberlain Brothers. Nashville, Tenn.

345. Copper, brass. 13.
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 5663; Mercer, *loc. cit.*, 1881, p. 53, No. 288; Storer, *loc. cit.*, July, 1891, No. 1725.

346. Copper. 13.
Ibid., No. 1726.

Chapman, John L. Baltimore, Md.

347. Edges milled. Silver, nickel. 11.
Cogan, *loc. cit.*, No. 68; Storer, *loc. cit.*, Oct., 1887, No. 193.
In my collection.

348. Edges milled. Silver, copper. 11.
Extremely rare.
Ibid., No. 194.
In my collection.

Chapman, W. B. Cincinnati, Ohio.

349. Edges milled. German silver. 12.
Ibid., No. 195.
In my collection.

Clark. Flint, Mich.

350. Copper. 13.
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 2470.
In my collection.

351. Copper. 13.
Instead of an eagle upon the reverse, there is a Liberty head, to left, with thirteen stars, and 1863.
Communicated to me by Mr. Groh.

Colcord, S. M. & Co. Boston, Mass.

352. Vulcanite.
Mercer, *loc. cit.*, 1884, p. 42.

Collins Brothers. Paris, Ill.

353. Eighteen stars. Copper. 13.
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 1595; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VII, 1882, p. 20, No. 3.
There is a var. of this (*Ibid.*, No. 1a).

354. Thirteen stars. 1863. Copper, brass. 13.
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, Nos. 1596-8; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VII, 1882, p. 20, No. 1.
There is a var. of this (*Ibid.*, No. 1a).

355. Thirteen stars. 1864. Copper. 13.
Ibid., No. 2.
Comstock & Brother. Albion, Mich.

356. Copper. 13.
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 2105; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VII, 1882, p. 106, No. 4.
In my collection.

357. Copper. 13.
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 2106; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VII, 1882, p. 106, No. 2.
In my collection.

358. Copper. 13.
Ibid., p. 106, No. 3.
In the Wright Collection.

Cook, Henry. Boston, Mass.

359. Rev. An eagle alighting upon a druggist's mortar. In his beak a scroll, upon which: ESTABLISHED—A. D. 1825. Copper. 17. But two known, and these are said to have been struck without Mr. Cook's knowledge. As they are among the rarest of the Boston tokens, they are valued accordingly.
Woodward, thirty-first Cat., 1-3 Sept., 1880, No. 530; sixty-ninth do., 13-18 Oct., 1884, No. 570; eighty-ninth do., 25-27 Oct., 1886, No. 1342.
Though Mr. C. was not a druggist, this token should be mentioned here. The reverse is that of Haviland Stevenson & Co., of Charleston, S. C., and it has also been used by B. F. Fetterall of Vicksburg, Miss.

Davies, Jesse. Huntington, Ind.

360. Copper.
Ibid., p. 63, No. 5.

Davis, A. M. New Paris, Ind.

361. Copper. 12.
Coin Collector's Jour., VII, 1882, p. 83, No. 1.

362. Copper. 12.
Obv. as preceding, but *rev.* Washington to left, etc.
In my collection.

Dayton, M. N. Martinsburg, Ohio.

363. Copper.
Ibid., VIII, 1883, p. 126, No. 2.

364. *Obv.* as last. *Rev.* Mercury. Copper.
Communicated to me by Mr. Groh.

Dickinson, Comstock & Co. Utica, N. Y.

365. Copper. 13.
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 3714; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VIII, 1883, p. 58, No. 1.

Dingen. Buffalo, N. Y.

366. Shell (\$20). 22.
Mercer, *loc. cit.*, 1884, p. 49.

Ditman. New York.

367. *Obverse*, DITMAN, DRUGGIST, ASTOR HOUSE, N. Y. *Reverse*, SODA.
Wood. 20.
Woodward, twenty-first Cat., 1879, No. 1108.

368. *Obv.* DITMAN'S SODA, 5. *Rev.* plain.
Wood. 20.
Ibid., No. 1102; Storer, *loc. cit.*, No. 199.

Drake.

369. "Plantation Bitters," etc.
Metallic shell, enclosing stamp. 15.
Mercer, *loc. cit.*, 1884, p. 46.
In the Government (Lee) Collection.
The following should be mentioned in this connection.

370. *Obv.* DRAKE'S | "PLANTATION" | BITTERS | —— | S. T. — 1860 — x *Rev.*
Bust of Gov. Tilden to right. Inscription: TILDEN'S "CONVENTION" BITTERS | S : J : T : 1880 — x — it¹
Silver, brass, white metal. 18.
In my collection.

371. Copper, brass, white metal. 20.
"Only twenty-five struck."
Haseltine Cat., 7-9 June, 1878, No. 259; Crosby Cat., No. 747.

Eckstein, F., Jr. Cincinnati, Ohio?

372. Copper, german silver, nickel. 12.
Cogan, *loc. cit.*, No. 106; Storer, *loc. cit.*, No. 200.
In the Fisher Collection and my own.

¹ With the above, the following has its medical relevance. *Obv.* Bust of Gov. Tilden, facing, with inscription. *Rev.* I DONT CARE ABOUT YOUR PIECE OF CAKE,

Epting & Eaton. Saginaw City, Mich.

373. Copper. 13.
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 2582; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VII, 1882, p. 175, No. 2.
In my collection.

Farnam. Hillsdale, Mich.

374. Copper, brass. 15.
Ibid., p. 156, No. 9.

Fickardt, C. H. & Co. Circleville, O.

375. Copper. 13.
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 4525.
In my collection.

376. Copper. 13.
Ibid., No. 4526.

377. *Obv.* as preceding. *Rev.* an eagle upon a shield. Copper. 13.
Communicated to me by Mr. Groh.

Findlay, R. K. & Co. Madison, Wis.

378. Copper. 13.
Ibid., No. 5379.

379. Copper. 13.
Ibid., No. 5380; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VIII, 1883, p. 196, No. 3.

Fisher & Hendryx. Tecumseh, Mich.

380. Copper, brass. 13.
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, Nos. 2591-2.
In the Wright Collection.

Fleming, Joseph. Pittsburg, Pa.

381. Copper. 13.
Ibid., No. 5077; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VIII, 1883, p. 165, No. 6.

382. Copper, brass. 13. Rim milled.
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, Nos. 5078-80.

383. As the last, but date 1864. Copper.
13.
Coin Collectors' Jour., VIII, 1883, p. 165, No. 7.

Fleming Brothers. Pittsburg, Pa.
See "Dr." McLane, No. 261.

Fosdick, Mitchell & Hild. Baltimore, Md.

384. "Importers of Druggists Sundries," etc. Vulcanite. 20.
In my collection.

Fotterall, Benj. F. Vicksburg, Miss.

385. Brass. 17. The reverse is that of Haviland Stevenson & Co., of Charleston, S. C., already described under Henry Cook (No. 359). Like the Cook token, Woodward states (eighty-third Catalogue), that "but two were struck," and again (eighty-ninth do., No. 651), "but two or three."
In my collection.

Fountain, W. C. Watertown, Wis.

386. Copper. 13.
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 5596.

387. *Obv.* as last. *Rev.* an open book, etc. Copper. 13.
Communicated to me by Mr. Groh.

Frederick. New York.

388. Copper, white metal. 14.
Coin Collectors' Jour., I, 1876, p. 162, cxxviii; Storer, *loc. cit.*, July, 1891, No. 729.

389. Copper, white metal. 14.
Coin Collectors' Jour., I, 1876, cxxix; Storer, *loc. cit.*, No. 1730.

390. Copper, white metal. 14.
Coin Collectors' Jour., I, 1876, cxxx; *Ibid.*, XII, 1887, p. 106; Storer, *loc. cit.*, No. 1727.

391. Copper, white metal. 14.
Coin Collectors' Jour., I, 1876, cxxxii; Storer, *loc. cit.*, No. 1728.

French. See Parker.

French & Parsons. Hillsdale, Mich.

392. *Obv.* FRENCH & PARSONS | (ornament) | DRUGGISTS | & | GROCERS | (ornament) | HILLSDALE, MICH. *Rev.* Liberty head to left, CHILDS MANFR. CHICAGO. | 1861 Copper, brass. 14.
In my collection.

Frost, H. M. Eaton Rapids, Mich.

393. Copper, brass. 13.
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, Nos. 2457-8; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VII, 1882, p. 153.

394. *Obv.* as last. *Rev.* Liberty head to left, with thirteen stars. 1863. Copper, brass. 13.
Communicated to me by Mr. Groh.

395. Copper, brass, tin. 13.
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, Nos. 2459-61.
In my collection.

396. As the last, save date 1864. Copper, nickel. 13.
Communicated to me by Mr. Groh.

Furlong, E. P. New York.

397. *Obv.* A saint, erect, driving snakes, etc., into the sea. Inscription: SAINT-PATRICK *Rev.* Within a beaded circle, PRICE | 25 CENTS | E. P. FURLONG | 92 | FULTON ST N. Y. Inscription: SAINT PATRICK'S | (rosette) SALVE (rosette) Brass. 15. Rare.
In the D. L. Walter Collection (N. Y.), and my own.

Fursman & Kinnear. Peoria, Ill.

398. Vulcanite. Mercer, *loc. cit.*, 1884, p. 42.

Gallagher & Hess. Salina, Mich.

399. Copper. 13. Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 2583; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VII, 1882, p. 175.

400. Copper. 13. Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 2584.

Garrigan, P. J. Newark, N. J.

401. Vulcanite. Mercer, *loc. cit.*, 1884, p. 42; Storer, *loc. cit.*, Oct., 1887, No. 201.

Geer, S. L. Norwich, Ct.

402. *Obv.* as above. *Rev.* plain. Wood.¹ 20. See also No. 223.

Woodward, twenty-fifth Cat., 16-19 Dec., 1879, No. 2599.

Gilesbi. Flint, Mich.

403. Copper. *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VII, 1882, p. 154.

Gillett & Niles. Hudson, Mich.

404. Copper. 13. *Ibid.*, p. 156.

405. *Obv.* as last. *Rev.* hammer and arm, as in No. 302. Copper. 13. In my collection.

Glazier. Parma, Mich.

406. Copper, brass. 13. Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 2574; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VII, 1882, p. 174.

Goodell, G. W. Corunna, Mich.

407. Copper. *Ibid.*, p. 109.

Gordon, W. J. M. Cincinnati, Ohio.

408. German silver. 12. Cogan, *loc. cit.*, No. 136; Storer, *loc. cit.*, No. 197.

In my collection.

[To be continued.]

A NEW MEDAL OF COLUMBUS.

VERY few medals have apparently been struck, which have any allusion to Columbus; the present year, no doubt, will see many more of them, and we trust that correspondents will not fail to send us descriptions, that they may be preserved in our pages. The first that we have noted bears on the obverse a profile bust of the great navigator, facing to observer's left, wearing a hat of the period, and a cloak or coat, open at the neck, and showing the vest. Legend, On a border slightly raised above the field, and of a dead finish, CHRISTOPHER above, and COLUMBUS below: between the first letters of each word, on the left 1892, and on the right, in a similar position, 1492. The die cutter has, singularly, made the figures on the right with their tops towards the field, while those on the left have the tops towards the edge; this mars the symmetry of the medal.

Reverse, On a circle enclosing the field, the legend THIS MEDAL IS MADE OF THE NEW METAL; below, partly filling out the circle, are three five-pointed stars, the central one larger than the others. On a tablet across the field, ALUMINUM. Above is the inscription in four lines, all but the last curving, TASTELESS - ODORLESS | -SONOROUS- | DUCTILE | -MALLEABLE- and below, in three lines, the last curving, $\frac{1}{4}$ WT. OF SILVER | SP. GR. 2.60 | -- | DOES NOT TARNISH The material is of course aluminum, as is stated in the inscription. While the metal is not new to Numismatists, the recent success of the attempts to produce it at a price which will bring it into common use, gives it more than usual interest. Its size is 22, American scale.

We have recently seen several advertising cards struck in this metal, by business houses, which indicate the popular interest and curiosity as to the character of the metal.

¹ It seems necessary to remind our readers that as we have already stated, the responsibility for placing pieces of wood, vulcanite, etc., among medals, in this list, must rest with our contributor. The Editors of the *Journal* do not regard such pieces as in any sense Medals, and we understand that Dr. Storer agrees sub-

stantially with us in this general view, and that his object is rather to indicate the existence of the dies, describing them without reference to the material on which they were used, — than to insist on classing such issues as medals.

THE EARLY DAYS OF THE MINT.

[FOURTH PAPER.]

[Continued from Vol. xxvi, page 62.]

THE arguments for a coinage entirely free, are, that it preserves the intrinsic value of the metals; that it makes the expense of fabrication a general instead of partial tax; and that it tends to promote the abundance of gold and silver, which, it is alleged, will flow to that place where they find the best price, and from that place where they are in any degree undervalued.

The first consideration has not much weight, as an objection to a plan which, without diminishing the quantity of metals in the coins, merely allows a less price for them in bullion at the national factory or mint. No rule of intrinsic value is violated, by considering the raw material as worth less than the fabric in proportion to the expense of fabrication. And by divesting foreign coins of the privilege of circulating as money, they become the raw material.

The second consideration has perhaps greater weight. But it may not amount to an objection, if it be the best method of preventing disorders in the coins, which it is, in a particular manner, the interest of those on whom the tax would fall, to prevent. The practice of taking gold by weight, which has of late years obtained in Great Britain, has been found, in some degree, a remedy; but this is inconvenient, and may, on that account, fall into disuse. Another circumstance has had a remedial operation. This is the delays of the mint. It appears to be the practice there, not to make payment for the bullion which is brought to be exchanged for coin, till it either has in fact, or is pretended to have undergone the process of recoining. . . . In what sense a free coinage can be said to promote the abundance of gold and silver, may be inferred from the instances which have been given of the tendency of a contrary system to promote their exportation. It is, however, not probable, that a very small difference of value between coin and bullion can have any effect which ought to enter into calculation. There can be no inducement of positive profit to export the bullion, as long as the difference of price is exceeded by the expense of transportation. And the prospect of smaller loss upon the metals than upon commodities, when the difference is very minute, will be frequently overbalanced by the possibility of doing better with the latter, from a rise of markets. It is, at any rate, certain, that it can be of no consequence in this view, whether the superiority of coin to bullion in the market, be produced, as in England, by the delay of the mint, or by a formal discrimination in the regulated values.

Under an impression that a *small* difference between the value of the coin and the mint price of bullion, is the least exceptionable expedient for restraining the melting down, or exportation of the former, and not perceiving that, if it be a very moderate one, it can be hurtful in other respects, the Secretary is inclined to an experiment of one half per cent. on each of the metals. The fact which has been mentioned, with regard to the price of gold bullion in the English market, seems to demonstrate that such a difference may safely be made. In this case, there must be immediate payment for the gold and silver offered to the mint. How far one half per cent. will go towards defraying the expense of the coinage cannot be determined beforehand with accuracy. It is presumed that, on an economical plan, it will suffice in relation to gold. But it is not expected that the same rate on silver will be sufficient to defray the expense attending that metal. Some additional provision may, therefore, be found necessary, if this limit be adopted.

It does not seem advisable to make any greater difference in regard to silver than to gold; because it is desirable that the proportion between the two metals in the market, should correspond with that in the coins, which would not be the case if the mint price of one was comparatively lower than that of the other; and because, also, silver being proposed to be rated in respect to gold, somewhat below its general commercial value, if there should be a disparity to its disadvantage in the mint prices

of the two metals, it would obstruct too much the bringing of it to be coined, and would add an inducement to export it. Nor does it appear to the Secretary safe to make a greater difference between the value of coin and bullion than has been mentioned. It will be better to have to increase it, hereafter, if this be found expedient, than to have to recede from too considerable a difference, in consequence of evils which have been experienced.

[The Secretary next discusses the expediency of the use of alloys to prevent the export of coined money, or its being turned into bullion.] It is sometimes mentioned, as an expedient, which, consistently with a free coinage, may serve to prevent the evils desired to be avoided, to incorporate in the coins a greater proportion of alloy than is usual; regulating their value, nevertheless, according to the quantity of pure metal they contain. This, it is supposed, by adding to the difficulty of refining them, would cause bullion to be preferred, both for manufacture and exportation.

But strong objections lie against this scheme — an augmentation of expense; an actual depreciation of the coin; a danger of still greater depreciation in the public opinion; the facilitating of counterfeits; while it is questionable whether it would have the effect expected from it. . . .

The inefficacy of the arrangement to the purpose intended to be answered by it, is rendered probable by different considerations. If the standard of plate in the United States should be regulated according to that of the national coins, it is to be expected that the goldsmith would prefer these to the foreign coins, because he would find them prepared to his hand, in the state which he desires; whereas he would have to *expend* an additional quantity of alloy to bring the foreign coins to that state. If the standard of plate, by law or usage, should be superior to that of the national coins, there would be a possibility of the foreign coins bearing a higher price in the market; and this would not only obstruct their being brought to the mint, but might occasion the exportation of the national coin in preference. It is not understood, that the practice of making an abatement of price for the inferiority of standard, is applicable to the English mint; and if it be not, this would also contribute to frustrating the expected effect from the increase of alloy. For, in this case, a given quantity of pure metal, in our standard, would be worth as much there, as in bullion of the English, or any other standard.

Considering, therefore, the uncertainty of the success of the expedient, and the inconveniences which seem incident to it, it would appear preferable to submit to those of a free coinage. It is observable, that additional expense, which is one of the principal of these, is also applicable to the proposed remedy. . . .

THE KING GEORGE I. INDIAN MEDAL.

Obverse: Laureated bust of George I in armor facing right. *Legend*: GEORGE KING OF | GREAT BRITAIN. *Exergue*: 1714 [the date does not appear in the illustration]. *Reverse*: In the foreground, at the angle of a green sward, an Indian walking to the left with bow full drawn and arrow having a barbed head, held in his left hand extended, his right arm bent pulling bow-string, aiming at a deer, facing left, standing under a small tree, near which out of the ground a small bush bearing four flowers, trees in back-ground; over all the sun in splendor, to right of which three stars, to its left one star. A metallic loop in the edge of the medal at the top.

An illustration of this medal appears opposite p. 27 in the *History of Wyoming, Pa.*, by Charles Miner, in the account of the fortification on Jacob's Plains or upper flats in Wilkes Barre, and the Indian burial place: "In 1814 I visited this fortification in company with the present Chief Justice Gibson and Jacob Cist, Esq. Fortune was unexpectedly propitious to our search, for we found a medal bearing on one side the impress of King George the First, dated 1714 (the year he commenced his reign); on the other, an Indian chief. It was awarded to Mr. Cist, and by him was deposited with the Philadelphia Historical Society."

E. J. CLEVELAND.

STARS AND CONSTELLATIONS ON COINS.

Editors of the Journal of Numismatics:—

BEING interested in the nomenclature of the stars, I have lately looked over one of our best authorities (Capt. W. H. Smyth) on this branch of the subject, and find in his great work, the "Bedford Catalogue," allusions to coins bearing astronomical emblems. I find similar allusions elsewhere, notably by Professor E. S. Holden of the Lick Observatory, and turn to you to ask what may be known as to this, among the modern students of Numismatology.

A word from your pages may draw out something not merely interesting to myself, but to others of your readers, and, to give the matter a beginning, I would state, on the authority above quoted, that a coin bearing the five stars forming the prominent V-shaped group of the Hyades, and headed by Aldebaran,—*a Tauri*,—was struck 43 B. C. by P. Clodius Turrinus, evidently alluding to his name, otherwise written Taurinus. The zodiacal sign Taurus, or the Bull, is shown on the gold mohur, or, as Smyth has it, in the original Persian, *muhr*, struck by Jehángir Sháh, in 1618; and his silver rupee has the same sign, although figured differently, and exactly as described by Manitius, sixteen centuries previously. There is another instance, a coin of 74 B. C., by L. Lucretius Trio, bearing the seven stars of the Constellation of Ursa Major, the "Septem Triones," also in evident allusion to the maker's name.

Of course you are familiar with the coins and postage stamps of the new Republic of Brazil, bearing the Southern Cross, and possibly with many others. I trust that you may be able to enlighten me.

Of stars on coins we have numberless examples, as witness those of our own country; but they are not what I write of. It is of stars as we have them in the sky, or of the twelve zodiacal signs, or celestial constellations, when used for devices on coins, that I inquire.

RICHARD H. ALLEN.

WE shall be happy to receive any communications from collectors, relating to this interesting topic, concerning which Mr. Allen inquires above. All or nearly all the signs of the zodiac, if we remember rightly, appear in the series alluded to—the "zodiacal rupees." The pieces described in the article immediately following, would seem to belong to this class; and perhaps also those with the stars of the Dioscuri, the "twins" of the Zodical sign Gemini; and some of the Astrological Amulets; on the other hand, the Roman coins bearing "Providentia," some of which have a star above the gate of the Pretorian Camp would be excluded.—EDS.

"REDEEMER COINS."

THE sale of a famous coin collection in Berlin a few weeks ago, recalls an interesting historical fact. Among the pieces of money which came under the auctioneer's hammer was a so-called "Julius Loeser," coined at the command of Duke Julius of Brunswick, in the second half of the sixteenth century. At that time the output of the silver mines in the Harz Mountains began to increase, and His Highness determined to create a permanent fund for the exigencies of war. His manner of doing this, however, was certainly original. He had blocks of silver coined, which, according to their weight, were worth $2\frac{1}{2}$, 3, 5, 8 and 10 thalers. They bore the picture of the Duke, the Brunswick coat-of-arms, the names of seven planets, the signs of the Zodiac and several proverbs. The Duke issued an order that each house-owner should purchase one of these large coins and preserve it for exigencies of the State. For this reason the coins were named "Julius Loeser" (redeemers). It was the duty of certain officials to visit the purchasers from time to time, to see that they kept the silver ready to be produced upon demand. The Duke thus had a considerable sum of money at his disposal in case of war. The Prussian Government has followed the example of His Highness in placing 120,000,000 marks in the famous tower of Spandau, known in honor of the old Duke and his system as the "Julius Tower."

PRIVATE ISSUES OF GOLD.

Editors of the Journal of Numismatics:—

IT is possible that the following extract from the journal of C. E. Montgomery, a California Pioneer, may throw some further light on the subject of "The Private Issues of Gold," treated of in the October number of the *Journal*.

"Sacramento, Cal., April 5th, 1851.

"The bankers of this city and San Francisco have refused to take any private gold coin excepting Moffat & Co.'s, upon the allegation that all of this coin falls below the standard value, and that Moffat & Co. are the only firm redeeming their issue. If any exception of value is made in favor of Moffat & Co. founded upon their published assay of private coins, it is indubitably erroneous; that assay, being an act of their own, designed to injure the character of Baldwin, Dubosq and other competitors, in this traffic, and advance their own, is entitled to no credit whatever. The fact is, I am satisfied that all the stamped palets of Moffat & Co., Baldwin, and Dubosq, are below the mint value, and I have very little faith in the octagon ingots issued by Moffat under the authority of A. Humbert, U. S. Assayer. When the United States District Court goes into operation, if Mr. Calhoun Benham does his duty, he will have them all, and especially Moffat, the first and chief offender, indicted for issuing spurious coin in similitude of the legal coin of the United States, and fraudulently putting the same into circulation contrary to law, and to the manifest injury of a community on whom they are passed as of standard weight. The whole lot of private coin should be taken by the people at what they are really worth, which would immediately so diminish the profits of the unlicensed coiners, that they would gradually give up the business. Moffat's legalized ingots, too, should be carefully assayed and their true standard ascertained."

The journal, from which the above extract is taken, was published in the *Overland Monthly* in 1886. From this extract I would infer first, that the Moffat coins were the earliest of the private issues of California gold, and second, that the August Humbert coins, as well as those purporting to be from the United States Assay Office, were in reality issued by and for the firm of Moffat & Co.

A. J. BENNETT.

VIRGINIA CITY, MONTANA.

"IN GOD WE TRUST."

THE motto, "In God we trust," which is now stamped upon all gold and silver coins of the United States, was suggested by an old farmer living in Maryland, says the St. Louis Republic. This conscientious Christian gentleman thought that our currency should indicate in some way the Christian character of our nation, which, he argued, could be best done by putting a motto upon our coins expressing a national reliance on Divine support in governmental affairs. It was in 1861, when S. P. Chase was Secretary of the Treasury, that this man first wrote to Washington respecting his pet idea. His letter was referred to Mint Director Pollock, who discussed the question in his report of 1862. Pollock and Chase were in favor of introducing the motto at once, but Congress gave the suggestion no attention whatever.

In his next annual report Director Pollock again referred to the matter, this time in firm theological argument, saying: "The motto suggested, 'God our trust,' is taken from our national hymn, 'The Star-Spangled Banner'; the sentiment is familiar to every citizen of our country; the time is propitious—'tis an hour of national peril. Let us reverently acknowledge His sovereignty, and let our coinage declare our trust in God."

A 2-cent bronze piece was authorized by Congress to be coined the following year, and on April 22, 1864, the first United States coin was stamped with the legend: "In God we trust."—Ex.

MASONIC MEDALS.

[Continued from Vol. XXVI, p. 67.]

DCCCLXXVIII. Obverse, Archimedes seated on a mosaic pavement, facing to the right, and holding in his left hand a large tracing-board on which he is demonstrating a proposition, the figure being a circle, etc.; at his feet on the right, a second tracing-board, and at the left a third, with a square, scroll, etc.; the tracing-boards at his feet also bear arcs or circles; on the edge of the platform, very small, HAGEROTH; legend, above, NOLI TURBARE CIRCULOS [Do not disturb the circles.] The figure of the Philosopher is in high relief. Reverse, On the field, three square trestle-boards, one upon another, so arranged as to give the effect of a twelve-pointed star. The field is burnished, and the trestle-boards and edge are in "dead finish." Inscription on the upper trestle-board in seven lines, ZUR | ERRINERUNG | AN DAS | HUNDERTFUNKZIG JAHRIGE | JUBELFESTE | 31. JANUAR | 1892 [In commemoration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary.] Legend, ARCHIMEDES ZU DEN 3 REISSBRETERN IN ALTBURG * [Archimedes of the Three Trestle Boards.] Silver and probably other metals. Size 25 nearly.¹

DCCCLXXIX. Obverse, A circle, formed by a chain of fourteen links, encloses two right hands joined; the circle is enclosed in a wreath of oak with acorns, which is slightly open at the top and tied by a ribbon and bow, at the bottom. No legend. Reverse, A triangle on which the inscription in three lines, OR.: | V.: | KAISERSLAUTERN [Orient of Kaiserlautern.] No legend. Silver, gilt. Size 20 nearly.²

DCCCLXXX. Obverse, Two right hands joined, issuing from clouds, which unite beneath them; above, at the right, rays proceed from the sun, half concealed by the circle which bears the legend, EGYESSEG A HAZABAN KELETEN PESTEN * [Harmony in the Fatherland, Orient of Pest.] Reverse, Within a wreath of laurel, having numerous berries, open at the top and tied with a bow of ribbon at the bottom, the date 1868. Legend, on a band surrounding the field, LOGE ZUR EINIGKEIT IM VATERLAND IN ORIENT ZU PEST [Lodge of Harmony in Fatherland, in the Orient of Pest.] a six-pointed star at the bottom. The date is said to be that of foundation.³ Yellow metal. Size 26.

1 This is an Anniversary Medal of the Lodge named, which has its "Orient" at Altenburg; in a note on CCCLI, I stated that the Lodge was founded in 1802, (which is an error), having been misled by the legend of the reverse, which reads, "Founded August 12, 1802." This date, I have since been informed, alludes to the Lodge building, erected at that time. The Lodge was founded in 1742, and celebrated its centenary in 1842; it is an independent body, and has contributed much of value to Masonic literature. Bro. Carl Hageroth, who cut the dies, which are very finely executed, is the chief engraver of the Saxon mint at Altenburg. The Medal is in the Lawrence collection.

2 This Medal, which I have but recently seen for the first time, through the kindness of Mr. Frossard, was struck by a Lodge having its Orient at the town named, which is in Rhenish Bavaria, on the River Lauter. The name of the Lodge I have not certainly ascertained. The planchet has a ring inserted in the edge, by which the Medal is worn suspended; the obverse die is placed at an angle with the reverse, I suspect by accident, so

that the stems of the wreath are thrown to the right, which give the hands the appearance of coming one from the upper right and the other from the lower left side of the field.

3 This and the following Hungarian Medals I describe from engravings illustrating an article on the Lodge Medals of that country, by Bro. Fred. J. W. Crowe, Prov. Gr. Master Devon, England, and published in the Christmas Number of the *London Freemason*, for 1891. The Lodge which struck this is there said to be the "Mother of the St. John's Lodges in Hungary," and to have "sent out so many colonies that it exhausted its vitality, and is now defunct." The Medal, called "exceedingly rare," was worn by a corded ribbon of red, white and green, the Hungarian National colors. The Lodge was located at Pest, as appears from the legend. The word for "Orient," as engraved on the cut, is KELETBEN, which I feel confident is an error, and omit the B in my description; probably there should also be a space between HAZA (Fatherland) and BAN (in), but I follow the engraving.

DCCCLXXXI. Obverse, The square and compasses with the angle and points resting upon a semi-circle of clouds. Legend, separated by a circle from the field, A REGI HÜ TESTVÉRÉK KELETEN PESTEN [The Lodge of Ancient Trusty Brethren, in the Orient of Pest] ; a seven-pointed star at the bottom. Reverse, A wreath of olive crossed at the bottom and open at the top, within which 1870 Legend, surrounding the field, but not separated by an inner circle, LOGE DIE ALDEN GETREUEN IM ORIENT ZU PEST and a small six-pointed star at the bottom. The German legend has the same signification as that in Hungarian on the obverse. White metal, and I presume other metals also. Size 20.¹

DCCCLXXXII. Obverse, On the field a female figure, draped, standing erect, and facing observer's left; in her right hand she holds a branch of palm; her left rests on the top of a bundle of rods, tied with cords, which stands leaning against her left side. Legend, separated from the field by a circle, SCT. JOHANNES □ CONCORDIA ORIENT LIPPA. [St. John's Lodge of Harmony in the Orient of Lippa.] Reverse, Within a wreath of olive, open at the top and tied by a ribbon and bow at the bottom, 31. | AUG. 00871 with the square and compasses below. [August 31, 1871, the date of foundation.] Yellow metal. Size 18.²

DCCCLXXXIII. Obverse, A circle on the centre of a star-shaped planchet of twelve points; on the circle, two right hands joined issuing from clouds which unite below; above, at the right, the radiant sun; no legend. Reverse, A star, as the obverse; on the central circle the word ÖSSZETARTAS □ across the centre of the field, over which the All-seeing eye in a triangle, and in a semicircle, PEST KEL. D.; below are the square and compasses, and at the bottom, in a line curving to conform to the edge, the date 000872 [Kel. for Keleten, Orient of Pest, the Lodge of Union, 1872.] The points of the star on obverse and reverse have lines extending outward from the central circle; the metal between the points is removed, and the upper point is pierced for a ring. Silver.³ Size of star, from point to opposite point, 29; of the central circle, 14.

DCCCLXXXIV. Obverse, The square and compasses, within which are two right hands joined; their arms, clothed, extend along the upper edge of the square to the inner circle surrounding the legend; on the left arm of the square 20 XI and on the right, 000874 [Nov. (?) 20, 1874.] Legend, on the circle surrounding the field, HUNGARIA above and ÖSSZETARTAS below, between the points of the compasses. [Hungary; Union.] The head of the compasses and the angle of the square touch the inner circle, and the extremities of the

¹ This is a Medal of another Lodge at Pest, which Bro. Crowe says is of German origin, still working, with a large membership and considerable property. It is worn attached to a blue ribbon. Bro. Crowe calls the wreath "laurel," as on the preceding piece; as engraved, it is apparently olive, having but few berries and those very small, and with very different leaves. I believe there should be no space between Hü and the following word of obverse legend. The sizes I name are those given in the article, quoted, varying, however, from the engravings, — the cuts of this one being 22, and those of the previous Medal 25.

² This is the Medal of a Lodge in Lippa, which was founded by the St. John's Lodge Harmony, of Pest, and is also now extinct. The Medal is said to be rare.

Bro. Crowe calls the wreath on this piece laurel, also, but, although it differs from that on the preceding Medal, I consider it to be of olive, which has a well known Masonic allusion which laurel does not possess. Lippa is a market town in South-eastern Hungary, of perhaps ten thousand inhabitants, chiefly occupied in agriculture and cattle raising.

³ This is the "Lodge jewel" of the body named. The Hungarian word which I translate "Union," signifies literally "Holding together" (össze = together; tartas = holding). The obverse is quite similar to that of DCCCLXXX, but on this the whole face of the sun appears. The jewel is worn suspended by a crimson ribbon; it is said to be quite rare, as the Lodge has ceased to exist. I understand the piece to be struck.

working tools resting upon the circle bearing the legend extend to the edge; the field is removed. Reverse, "blank" [? similar to obverse but without a legend].¹ Silver. Size 22.

DCCCLXXXV. Obverse, The square and compasses enclosed in a wreath of two branches of laurel, crossed and tied at the bottom with a bow and ribbon; two right hands joined emerge from the wreath at the top; no legend. Reverse, Inscription in seven lines, ARPAD | A TESTVERISEGHEZ | SZABAD KOMUVESI | SZENT JANOS | PAHOLY | SZEGED | KELETEN [I venture to translate this inscription 'The St. John's Lodge Arpad, of the Brotherhood of Freemasons, having its Orient at Szeged.']. White metal. Size 24.²

DCCCLXXXVI. Obverse, The square and compasses enclosing a perfect ashlar; a double quatrefoil surrounds the device, and bears the legend on the upper curve, HALADAS; on the lower, PEST; on that at the left, 1871 and at the right, MAJUS 24 [Progress, Pest, May 24, 1871]. Reverse, Not engraved by Crowe, but which he states bears the inscription FORTSCHRITT OR. PEST 24 MAI 1871 and says the die of the reverse cracked. [Progress, Orient of Pest, May 24, 1871.] White metal. Size 23.³

DCCCLXXXVII. Obverse, A star of six points, superimposed on another of the same form, so as to make twelve points in all; the points of the one beneath have lines radiating from the centre; the upper star has on its centre the square and compasses enclosing an open book, on the leaves of which are K K the initials of the name of the Lodge; below, the working tools KÖNYVES KALMAN [the erudite Kolman]; below this, in two lines, PEST | KEL. [Orient of Pest]; on the left side of the emblems, stretching across, so as to give the effect of a triangle, AZ ELÖITELETEK and on the right, in a similar position, LEGYÖZESEHEZ [For the overcoming of prejudice.] A five-pointed star at the top between the words; 000872 on the left and I. 24. on the right, near the edge of the triangle which completes the upper star

¹ I understand this to be a *struck* Medal, and not a badge, or I should not number it; Bro. Crowe says the Lodge is called "Hungaria," and is now active, and noted for its excellent work. He further remarks that the jewel is worn with a short crimson ribbon, by which it is attached to a small silver bar, bearing the name of the Lodge. Whether this Lodge, which has its Orient at Buda-Pest, is a revival of the Lodge which struck the Medal last described, I have not ascertained; it will be observed that the color of the ribbon worn by both is the same; the fact that it is the general Continental custom for Lodges to have their own distinctive colors of ribbon, and that the word signifying Union appears on both pieces, may possibly indicate such to be the case. But my knowledge of the language is so extremely limited, that I only dare to suggest the further probability that the word Osszetartas, which I translate "Union" [see previous note], is the name, or a *part* of the name, of the Lodge; I should be inclined to read the legend (The Lodge) Union, of Hungary, were it not that Bro. Crowe gives it a different name. I have not been able to find a Hungarian Brother sufficiently familiar with the Lodges of Buda-Pest to confirm my theory. XI may possibly mean January instead of November, depending on whether this Lodge was chartered by the Grand Orient, which called March the first month, or the mother Lodge of St. John Masonry, mentioned above, which reckoned from January. I regret my inability to obtain a sufficient number of accented letters to make the descriptions of these medals correspond with the originals, where the accents appear.

² The Member's jewel of a large and flourishing Lodge, founded at Szeged, about twenty years ago, as I learn from Bro. Crowe's paper; he gives its name as "Arpad of Brotherhood," and says "it takes its name from "Arpád, a descendant of Attila, the Goth, who conquered Hungary, and became its first Duke or Prince." The dynasty became extinct in 1301. "Arpad" (a Scriptural word) literally signifies "The Light of Redemption;" whether there is a double allusion in the use of this name, I do not know; Szabad means Free, and Komüvesi means Masons; Páholy, literally a box, is the word used for Lodge. Bro. Crowe does not give the translation of the legend. I must differ with him as to the name of the Lodge, and have given in the text what I suppose it to be. He says the ribbon of the Lodge is red, white and green (the Hungarian colors), and that "the Lodge now uses another Medal" (of which I have not yet seen a description); this is probably rare. Szeged, or Zegedin, is a considerable city in South-eastern Hungary, which not long ago suffered greatly by the overflow of the rivers Theiss and Maros, which unite here, forming extensive marshes. Its population is not far from 70,000, largely engaged in manufacturing.

³ I presume the reverse inscription is in at least three lines, of which the first word may be the first line, and the date the last, but have not yet seen the Medal. Bro. Crowe says it is "Worn on the left breast, which is very unusual with Lodges descended from the former St. John's Grand Lodge."

[March 24, 1872]. Reverse, A star similar to that on obverse; rays appear on all the points; the upper star has J on the left point, B on the right, and M on the lower; on the centre is a circle formed by a serpent devouring its tail, and enclosing the radiant tetragrammaton in an ellipse. No legend. Yellow metal. Size 34.

W. T. R. MARVIN.

[To be continued.]

FOUND IN BROADWAY, N. Y.

SOME little time ago, while excavating near 14th Street, New York City, to place the cable road, the following described medal was found:—

Obv. GEORGII II D. G. MAG. BRI. FR. ET HIB. REX. F. D. Bust *r.* laureate, in armor. *Ex.* MORIKOFER Rev. DECORA MERENTI. Minerva seated *l.* leans upon shield and holds out a wreath in her *r.* hand. *Ex.* PRAEMIUM SOCIET. | REG. SCIENT. | GOTTING. AE size 44 mm. Struck by the Royal Academy of Sciences at Göttingen in 1751 for one of the annual prizes. The medal is in fair condition only, but is very rare. *L.*

ANOTHER AMERICAN TIN MEDAL.

Editors of the Journal:—

The following medal is a good companion for the one described on page 68 of the current volume of the *Journal*: PITTSBURG & MEXICAN TIN MINING CO. in a circle enclosing the arms of Pittsburg, 1891 underneath.

Rev. COMMEMORATING FIRST CAR LOAD OF METALLIC TIN PRODUCED IN NORTH AMERICA in 7 lines. Tin, size 24.

GEO. W. RODE.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

QUERY.

WHAT is the origin of the coin (copper) which has the following emblems: On the face a hand or arm — apparently the left hand — holding a sword erect and branches of two kinds of plants, in a kind of diamond-shaped border; and on the reverse a shield with parallel bars, surmounted by a crown, with balls instead of points. There is no legend on either side. *P.*

The description is hardly definite enough to enable us to give a positive answer, but it may be one of the minor pieces struck by Caraffa, one of the Grand Masters of Malta, about the close of the 17th Century, which corresponds somewhat closely to the piece described.

EDS.

STARS AND CONSTELLATIONS ON COINS.

SINCE the previous page containing a communication from Mr. R. H. Allen was printed, we have received some further notes from that gentleman, on the same topic, which we give below:—

A coin bearing the four prominent stars in the Constellation *Aquila*, was struck in 94 B. C. by Manlius Aquilius, in reference probably to his own name. I also find positive statements, made by Miss Clarke in her astronomical papers, as to various instances of the use of

1 This Medal was struck by the Lodge Konyves Kalman, of Pest, "the largest and wealthiest of the Hungarian Lodges," says Bro. Crowe, "descended from the former Grand Orient, having some two hundred members, and in every way flourishing and admirably worked." The Medal is worn attached to a scarlet ribbon. I give the date March (not January,) as it derived its life from the Grand Orient. "Konyves" literally signifies the "book-possessing." Concerning the Prince in whose honor the Lodge was named, Bro.

Crowe says: "He was an old King of Hungary, who reigned at the beginning of the Twelfth Century; he was a man of great culture, and far in advance of that period in his liberality of views and enlightenment of mind; and on finding that he abolished trials against witches, 'which,' said he, 'do not exist,' one need only glance at English history as late as the Seventeenth Century to see what metal this grand old Prince was made of, to dare to utter such an opinion some five hundred years before."

astronomical symbols on coins. For instance, the Ram (the Zodiacial sign) is stamped on the coins of Antiochus of Syria, with head turned backward towards the moon and a star (the planet Mars), signifying that Aries was the Lunar House of Mars. Other Syrian coins bear the effigy of the Ram, as, according to the astrologers, he was evidently in charge of the destinies of that country. [See Daniel, viii : 20.] Similarly Palmyra had coins with Libra, Zeugma adopted Capricorn; Miletus, Leo; and Singara, Sagittarius.

SPECIAL COINAGE FOR THE COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION.

THE Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of the Mint have approved the proposition of the managers of the World's Fair for the special issue of \$20,000,000 50-cent pieces for use at the Exposition and bearing designs appropriate to the occasion. The authority for such action rests upon Congress.

WHY HE TOOK A PLUGGED COIN.

"Birds of a feather flock together." Probably that explains why three men employed in handling coins in Chicago banks occupied adjoining seats coming in on the suburban the other morning. The conversation turned upon the ability of an expert to instantly detect a counterfeit, plugged, or mutilated coin, when one of the trio remarked :

"Well, when any one gets me to take a defective coin without a protest on my part I'll set up the cigars to my friends."

At the next stop a pretty young lady entered the car and sat down in a vacant seat adjoining the young man who had made the statement quoted. On that particular line of railroad the passengers frequently accommodate each other with commutation tickets, which sell for a small fraction of what a cash fare would be. Turning to her seat-mate she very sweetly asked if he would sell her a ticket, which he very gladly proceeded to do. The price of the ticket is five cents. She proffered him a plugged dime. Returning her a nickel he hastily dropped the dime into his pocket, but the very significant glances exchanged between his companions told him that they also had discovered that the coin he had taken was very defective. "And that's why I'm smoking such good cigars to-day," said the member of the trio who related the incident.—*Chicago Mail.*

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

JANUARY 8. The Annual Meeting was held this day. Dr. S. A. Green was chosen President *pro tempore*. The records of the last meeting were read and accepted. The Secretary mentioned briefly the death of the President, Jeremiah Colburn, and of W. E. Woodward, and read a letter from John Robinson, resigning membership; the resignation was accepted. The Treasurer presented his annual report, which was accepted. Mr. Crosby was appointed to nominate officers, and reported as follows: For President, Samuel A. Green; Vice-President and Curator, Henry Davenport; Treasurer, Sylvester S. Crosby; Secretary, Wm. S. Appleton. The report was accepted, and the persons named were declared officers for 1892. Mr. Crosby showed two specimens of the New England Good Samaritan piece, both evidently the work of Thomas Wyatt. The Secretary showed a dime of the new issue, which was not thought an improvement on the old, except in so far as a head of Liberty replaces the seated figure. The Society adjourned at about 4 P. M.

FEBRUARY 12. A monthly meeting was held this day. The records of the last meeting were read and accepted. Dr. Hall showed his collection of Massachusetts cents and half-cents, containing twenty-five dies of the former and ten of the latter, most of them in fine and very good condition. Mr. Crosby showed a collection of Pine-tree money belonging to Mr. C. H. Stearns of Boston, in which there are many different dies and varieties; it was examined with much interest. The Society adjourned at 4.30 P. M.

MARCH 11. A monthly meeting was held this day. The records of the last meeting were read and accepted. The Secretary announced the death of a Corresponding Member, Edmund B. Wynn of Watertown, N. Y., February 15. A donation of a

box of medals from Wm. H. Warner & Brother of Philadelphia was announced, for which the thanks of the Society were voted. The President showed his collection of Pine-tree money and of Massachusetts Half-cents, the latter being generally in particularly fine condition. Dr. Hall showed his collection of Pine-tree money, in which are some excellent specimens, and two special rarities, a *CONFEDERATIO AMERICANA* in fine condition and the *CONFEDERATIO AMERICA* in ordinary condition, but of which no duplicate is known. The Society adjourned at 4.10 P. M.

WM. S. APPLETON, *Secretary.*

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE Annual Meeting of this Society was held on March 21, 1892, President Parish in the chair. The Executive Committee announced that arrangements had been made by which the Society would soon remove to more attractive and pleasant rooms, in a desirable and accessible location, in the fire-proof building of the New York Academy of Medicine, at 17 West 43d Street; here it is hoped to have a resting place in some degree permanent. A committee has been appointed to make the necessary arrangements to have the Society represented at the "Columbian Exposition" at Chicago; they have the matter already well in hand, and will announce their plans to the Society at some future meeting.

Acceptance of election has been received from Dr. Anton Blomberg, of Stockholm, Sweden. Dr. Geo. F. Heath, of Monroe, Mich., and Dr. J. B. Breeding, of San Antonio, Texas, were elected Corresponding Members. The Committee on Publications, Messrs. Belden, Poillon and Wright, reported that they had collected and arranged papers and proceedings from 1887 up to date, and as soon as the Secretary could prepare those of the present meeting, they would be ready for printing; and it was proposed to raise the necessary funds for that purpose by subscription.

The Room Committee reported that seven Numismatic and Archaeological meetings had been held during the year, at which interesting papers had been read, and exhibitions held; a meeting and reception had also been held at the house of Mr. Zabriskie, when the Society had the pleasure of listening to an able paper on the Medallic Memorials of Abraham Lincoln, illustrated with stereopticon views. The Librarian reported 229 additions during the year, of which 75 were bound volumes. The Curator of Numismatics reported a total of 229 additions to the Society's cabinets, of which 44 were in silver; the most numerous donations were from Messrs. Daniel Parish, Jr., and Bauman L. Belden. The Curator of Archaeology made a verbal report on his department, and expressed the hope that in the new rooms more attention would be given to this collection. The Treasurer reported that the Society's finances were in good condition, and the permanent funds were well invested.

The Historiographer read obituary notices of the following gentlemen, whose deaths have been reported during the year: Honorary Members Jeremiah Colburn, A. M., Robert Morris, LL. D.; Resident Members Oliver P. Hatfield, Wilson Defendorf, F. W. Christer, Alex. M. Agnew; Corresponding Members Byron Reed, Wm. Eliot Woodward, John J. Knox, and others.

The Annual Election resulted as follows: Daniel Parish, Jr., *President*; Andrew C. Zabriskie, William Poillon, and John M. Dodd, *Vice Presidents*; H. Russell Drowne, *Secretary*; Charles Pryer, *Treasurer*; Bauman L. Belden, *Librarian*; Charles H. Wright, *Curator of Numismatics*; Robert Valentine, *Curator of Archaeology*; William R. Weeks, *Historiographer*; Messrs. Belden, Valentine and Wright were appointed as Members of the Room Committee.

After the election the Society adjourned.

(For the foregoing abstract from the Minutes we are indebted to Mr. H. Russell Drowne, the Secretary.)

THE paper at the "Numismatic meeting" March 28, was read by Mr. Francis W. Doughty, on "Evidences of Man in the Drift," and was illustrated by an exhibition and description of certain important archaeological objects, recently discovered on Long Island, exhibited for the first time at the meeting, which were discussed in their comparative relation to ancient coins.

At the next "Numismatic meeting," May 25, Mr. Francis B. Lee, of Trenton, N. J., is expected to read a paper on "The Colonial Jersey Coinage from an Historical Standpoint." An exhibition of these coins will be given, and members are cordially invited to bring their friends, ladies as well as gentlemen. This will be the first Numismatic meeting in the new rooms.

COIN SALES.

FROSSARD'S ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH SALE.

MR. ED. FROSSARD sold in New York, at the Rooms of Messrs. George A. Leavitt & Co., on Wednesday and Thursday, April 13 and 14, the entire collection of Ancient, Foreign and American coins, in gold, silver, and copper, made by Mr. A. H. Saltmarsh, among which was the rare Syracusan Decadrachm, a very complete set of "Bell Thalers," many of the large German Crowns, and other objects of interest to Numismatists and collectors; the piece which attracted most attention, perhaps, was a Dollar of the date 1804 over 1803; this was, of course, very carefully inspected; it was thought on the one hand, that it was very probably a legitimate issue of the Mint, as offered, since it is a well established fact that altered dies have been used by the Mint, in its earlier days, of no better execution than the one under notice; a small crack near the edge of the obverse die seemed to some to confirm the theory that this die had been softened, to admit of the alteration, and then hardened again, but lost its temper during the process, and broke, perhaps immediately, as no other similar specimen (with such an alteration) has been noted: it was so plainly an alteration that it was thought too clumsy to be an attempt at fraud, for if done with such design, it would have been better done. On the other hand, it was pronounced by many experts to be an alteration, after it left the Mint, of an 1803 Dollar. Mr. S. S. Crosby, in this *Journal*, has described the piece, and thought it an issue of the Mint in its present condition; it was shown at a recent meeting of the Boston Numismatic Society, and opinions were divided; the clumsiness of the alteration seemed to be the strongest point in its favor. The buyers at the sale considered it an alteration of an 1803 Dollar, after it left the Mint, and the piece was therefore withdrawn from the sale; those interested in its further study will find a very good phototype of the piece in the illustrated edition of the Catalogue of the sale (published with three plates). We quote below some of the prices received:—

A Cent of 1804, perfect die, v. g. for date, \$6.75; Willow-tree Shilling (Crosby 3-F), 36; two Oak-tree Shillings, 6 and 8; a Pine-tree do., large planchet, small tree, die broken, 6; Stater of Alexander III, helmeted head of Pallas, 8; one of Lysimachus, deified head of Alexander, 22; British Stater, rude horse, 5.10; Solidus of Constantius, 8.50; New Japanese Oban, weight 1735 grains, (gold,) 69.50; Five Guinea piece of James II, 1688, 32.50; Quadruple Ducat of Ferdinand and Isabella, 26; the various Thalers of Brunswick-Luneburg, 1586 and on, sold at an average of about 5 each; Ten-Crown piece of Henry Julius, 1600, 50; another of Frederic Ulric, 1620, of highest rarity, 80; Six-Crown of Christian, 1625, 38.50; and Three and Four Crowns, at equally good rates; the Bell Thalers, of which there were nine, sold at 36 for the lot. A collection of 560 Chinese coins, with descriptions in English and Chinese, all in very fine condition, from the earliest period to the present day, 47.50; a scimetar-shaped coin of the Chow dynasty, finely patinated, and upwards of 2000 years old, 8.25; the Syracusan Decadrachm, which had previously sold for 250 to Mr. Klein and for 105 to Mr. Saltmarsh, brought 97.50; a Jewish Shekel of Simon Maccabeus, 19.25. Many other pieces also brought good prices. The books and curiosities sold fairly well; the Egyptian terra-cotta figures from 3.25 to 15, and a bronze statuette from the Barlow collection, 25. Some early American Copper Axes, relics of the Stone age, Discoidals, etc., brought excellent returns. In the total result, we judge the sale was fully as successful as was expected, with the exception of the 1804 (?) Dollar. The Catalogue, 58 pages, and 974 lots, was prepared by Mr. Frossard.

THE COLIN E. KING SALE.

On the 5th and 6th of April, the Messrs. Chapman sold in Philadelphia, at the rooms of Davis & Harvey, the collection of Greek, Roman, Modern and American Coins and Medals, formed by Colin E. King, Esq., of New York City. The compilers of the Catalogue (78 pages and 1455 lots) very properly observe that while the collection is not remarkable for its size, it contains a considerable number of pieces valuable for their historical and artistic character. Among the historical coins were many of the Greek Cities and Kings, Roman issues from the earliest period of the Republic to the Empire, including coins of

every Emperor from Julius Caesar to Trajanus Decius; there were also many modern coins of interest, Crowns of Edward VI, Elizabeth and Cromwell (including Simon's), and many of the quaint mediaeval pieces, etc. A very complete collection of Fractional Currency, thought to be the most extensive yet offered, was an attractive feature of the sale. An illustrated edition with five phototype plates was issued; to this, and the priced Catalogues, we must refer for a complete account of the sale; we mention a few of the prices received:—

Didrachm of Locri-Epizephyrii, v. f., \$6.25; Tetradrachm of Gela (B. C. 466-415), v. f., 11.75; a very fine example of the Syracusean Decadrachm, Persephone crowned with wheat-leaves and surrounded by four dolphins, and rev. charioteer crowned by Nike, 150; an extremely fine Stater of Philip II, 21; and another of Alexander, with head of Pallas, and rev. Nike standing, brought the same price; tetradrachm of Alexander IV, with the eagle of Ptolemy, v. f., 12.50; tetradrachm of Athens, head of Athene, rev. owl on amphora, and the three Graces, 12.50; the early incused Didrachm of Aegina, tortoise showing markings of shell, and rev. square divided by bands into five parts, 6.10; an interesting tetradrachm with rev. Apollo seated on omphalos, and obv., which the Messrs. Chapman consider for reasons which they give, to bear a portrait bust of Seleucus II, (although neither Head nor Gardner attribute to this King any coin with rev. as above, nor does Mionnet, except a didrachm, which he thinks may be either Seleucus II or IV,) brought 9.50; Phenician didrachm, B. C. 350, Aramaic characters, v. f., 10.25; Shekel of Simon Maccabaeus, chalice and lily, 20; Daric of Darius I, B. C. 521-486, v. f., 26; tetradrachm of Ptolemy I, of Egypt, 13.50; a set of six pieces, Aes grave, (with heads of different deities,) As, Semis, Triens, etc., brought 17.00; a lot of 268 denarii of the Republic, first and second centuries B. C., all different, 23.78; very rare denarius of Agrippina Sr., and Caligula, ex. f., 12; one of Pescennius Niger, Health standing, v. g. and ex. r., 17; Crown of Edward VI, 13; another of Elizabeth, v. f., well struck, 25; the "Simon Crown" of Cromwell, v. f., 27; the "Gloriam Regni," extremely fine impression, 13.75; Hudson Bay Co., bust of Geo. III, and arms of the Company, bronze proof, ex. r., 20; another of same Company, but different die for obv., also bronze proof and excessively rare, 22 (both these medals by C. H. Kuchler, Soho Mint); the early Pine-tree and Oak-tree pieces brought high prices, running from 11.50 to 35, the latter for the variety known as C. 4-F; Nova Eborac, large bust, 15; Eagle of 1797, 12 stars behind bust and 4 before, rev. small eagle, 50; some of the "Private issues" of gold brought from eighty to one hundred and twenty per cent advance over their nominal value, and two or three even more; we note an "Eagle," view of Pike's Peak, struck at Denver, 26, and a Quarter Eagle of Georgia Gold, T. Reid, Assayer, dated 1830, thought to be the "first coin issued by private enterprise in America," 62.50; passing many of interest, we mention a Half Dollar, N. O. Mint, 1853, without arrows or rays, of the utmost rarity, and guaranteed genuine, sold in the Randall collection, 1885 (lot 421), for 180, now brought 121; an 1804 Cent, whose history is given in the Catalogue, 102. We might greatly lengthen our list, had we the space at command, with quotations of other excellent prices realized, but must forbear.

ENGLISH SALE OF COLONIALS, ETC.

AT a sale held in London, May 3 and 4, of the present year, by Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge, a set of Somer Island pieces,—Shilling, Sixpence, Threepence, and Twopence,—were sold to an American buyer for £135 (about \$675). In the same sale several other pieces, including a number of interest to American collectors, brought remarkably high prices, and we name a few, as follows:—

A set of seven pieces, tin or pewter coins of East India, including Double Pice, "Bomb," rev. "Auspicio regis," Pice, similar, another Double Pice, but dif. rev. and similar Pice, Half and Quarter Pice, E. I. Co.'s mark, brought \$23; Set of Two Stiver, One, and Half Stiver, three pieces, Ceylon, 1870, silver, all plain proofs, 5; four proofs of Cents and Half Cents, Pulu-Penang, Persian characters, 6; six copper proofs, E. I. Co. Straits Settlements, Cents, Half and Quarter Cents, differing dies, 25 (these were dated 1845); another set, 1872, by Heaton of Birmingham, six pieces, 10; eight proofs (set), Rajah Brooks, 1863 to 1886, North Borneo, 5; six pieces, including N. E. Shilling, Oak and Pine Tree Shillings, Sixpences and Three and Twopence, ran from 35 for the N. E. to 45 for two Pine Tree and Oak Tree Sixpence and Threepence; Five Rosa Americana Pennies "Utile Dulce," brought 25 for the lot, and another lot, two "Utile dulci" Halfpennies, and three Virginia Pennies, all dif., 36; "Copper Company of Upper Canada" Fertilitatem, etc., 35; Kentucky Token, "British Settlements," Hope, 46; Myddelton's Token, proof in silver, v. r., 25, and a proof of same in bronze, 16; Barbadoes Penny and Halfpenny, 1792, proofs, 5; and a lot, Penny and two Halfpennies, struck on thin planchet, 10; Three proofs of one-fiftieth Dollar, 1823, one-fiftieth do. Colonial 1823, in three lines in a wreath of oak, and two one one-hundredth of Dollar, similar type, one bronzed and one plain, all ex. rare, \$75; four pieces (set), silver proofs, Half, Quarter, Eighth and Sixteenth Dollar, George IV, "Coloniarium," etc., a scarce set, 15; these and the preceding lot were struck for Jamaica; Dollar, Half Dollar and Half Real, dated 1756, 1755, and 1740, heart-shaped perforations in centre (? Tobago), about 12; Disc with crenated edge, Essequibo and Demerara, cut from Spanish Dollar, with E & D 3 Bts within a beaded circle, of excessive rarity, 18; "Holy Dollar" of New South Wales, Charles III, 1788, large perforation in centre, with legend round hole, . . . 1813, "Five Shillings," 20; another, similarly pierced, but of Charles III of Spain, 1806, r., 27; and others at equally "fancy" prices. We give approximate prices, \$5 to the Pound. Our English friends must have been somewhat surprised at such bids, but we cannot doubt, accepted them not only promptly but gladly. A London dealer remarks that the "prices realized were quite erratic; . . . one of your countrymen [an American buyer] ran amuck at most of the American pieces, and carried them off at high record prices."

BOOK NOTICES.

HISTORICAL RECORD OF MEDALS AND HONORARY DISTINCTIONS CONFERRED ON THE BRITISH NAVY, ARMY AND AUXILIARY FORCES FROM THE EARLIEST PERIOD. GEORGE TANCREP, late Captain Royal Scots Greys. Small 4to, morocco, gilt, 483 pp. Spink & Son. London, 1891.

THE annals of the United Service of Great Britain are replete with deeds of heroism and remarkable achievements. No nation, within the period treated, can exhibit a grander array of martial exploits both by sea and land. Many incidents connected with the operations of both arms of the service have gone down unrecorded into oblivion: the chief events are, however, matters of actual history—"wreaths won that can never wither, nor the star of their glory grow dim."

But, as the author points out, decorative rewards for bravery by flood or field, are of comparatively recent date. There are few if any authentic instances of the bestowal of honorary badges for meritorious services, prior to the period of Elizabeth. Charles I and Cromwell recognized those who distinguished themselves in their cause, and the custom was followed, more or less, by succeeding monarchs down to the present reign. The important operations under the last three Georges were marked by the distribution of medals, crosses and other emblems of distinction, but by far the largest number of rewards for merit have been conferred during the long and eventful reign of Victoria, who not only has given signal tokens of favor and marks of merit to her army and navy, but has authorized the recognition of the services of the veterans who had distinguished themselves long previous to her accession.

Covering the ground above indicated, the descriptive enumeration, by the author, of the different orders, decorations, etc., issued, is almost, if not quite, complete. We doubt if it has ever been equalled, as a whole. The events, in commemoration of which each distinction was conferred, are admirably detailed. It is a history of no mean proportions in itself, and pictures in a masterly manner the martial greatness of the little sea-girt isle, on "whose domain the sun never sets." The writer, by his professional interest in the subject, is eminently fitted for the work, and his compilation will rank as a text-book. A most interesting account of the celebrated decorative orders from that of the Garter, downwards, precedes the main body of the work, which concludes with the unique collection of Col. Murray of Polmaise Castle, N. B., one of the finest known.

The volume is beautifully illustrated, containing many fine engravings (some colored); the type is of the best. In a word, it is a literary gem of its kind.

HISTOIRE MONETAIRE DES COLONIES FRANÇAISES D'APRES LES DOCUMENTS OFFICIEL. E. ZAY. PARIS. 8vo, 330 pp., 278 cuts and engravings. J. Montorier. Paris, 1892.

One of the most valuable recent additions to the history of Medals is the work of M. Zay, of the French Numismatic Society. The design of the author is to present in connection with an account of the establishment of the various colonies of France throughout the world, a description of the coins, medals and tokens issued in these colonies or by the Home Government specially for them. The authority for the different issues is given at great length, together with the official correspondence relating thereto.

In addition to the interesting information furnished on the subject of the various issues, a very comprehensive glance is afforded of the extensive colonization effected under the auspices of France. The circumstances attending the foundation of the various settlements are fully described. The result of this is that the reader forms an adequate idea of the great extent of territory either settled or acquired by the French.

The subject of chief interest to the people on this side of the Atlantic is naturally the French régime in North America. New France comprised the territory between the Atlantic and the Great Lakes, and most of the present Northern States as well as

Canada. For these colonies many currencies, medals, jetons, etc., were struck in France—several to mark notable events. Examples of these issues are given with full descriptions and many illustrations. These coinages are probably the most interesting in the series, as relating to the earliest settlements in French history.

The scope of the author, of course, extends to the dependencies scattered over the globe, including the West Indies, Africa, Madagascar, China, Tonquin and many others.

The object of Mr. Zay in supplying a text-book on this branch of medallic history has been ably accomplished, and the completeness and accuracy of the work bear testimony to his zeal and research.

THE STORY OF THE TOKEN; BY ROBERT SHIELLS. Small 8vo, pp. 170, 18 new and well selected engravings. John Ireland, New York, 1891.

WHILE the subject of Church Communion Tokens has been treated, in the past, with reference to particular localities (notably the descriptive catalogues of those of the United States by the late Thomas Warner, and of Canadians by Mr. McLachlan), the author of the sketch before us presents what is probably the most comprehensive glance at this branch of numismatics, published in recent years. The subject is handled with much care, while the author's modesty appears to be only excelled by his painstaking and enthusiasm. A very complete outline of the history of these "stray leaden footprints of Church history" is furnished, which cannot fail to interest the student of these tokens, while the description of the different classes of memorials of sacramental ordinances and ecclesiastical discipline will prove of valuable aid to those who desire to enter more fully into this field of inquiry. The origin of these pieces and their use and application in various parts of the world is given with much elaborateness of detail, and authorities and sources of information are copiously supplied. It is a pleasure to take up a work of this kind, where the author shows himself so full of love of his theme, and delights in pointing out the beauties which he sees in it. The treatise also touches upon tokens which were originally neither Church or Communion, but were subsequently made available as mediums of exchange, admission, recognition or otherwise. The work is admirably divided, showing the different classes (as to origin, etc.), covering the earliest period from which these tokens can be traced, and includes mention of medals and cards having religious significance or association. The style is excellent, the language both forcible and ornate. In short, the "Story of the Token" is well told and indisputably reflects the ability, research and religious zeal of the narrator. We prophesy for this little book a cordial and appreciative reception by all lovers of ecclesiastical numismatics. The index is ample and well arranged.

YOUNG COLLECTOR SERIES. THE COPPER COINS OF EUROPE. FRANK C. HIGGINS. London, Swan Sonnenschein & Co., 1892.

The title of another work issued by the firm of Sonnenschein & Co., in continuation of the *Young Collectors' Series*, making the third of this valuable library of numismatic literature. In keeping with the character of the works already published by this house, it is in every sense an admirable addition to the series, and well worthy of the attention of all interested in the subject with which it deals. It is printed in good, clear type, neatly bound in cloth, and contains an amount of information far beyond what its compact size would seem to indicate. Although compiled for the benefit of the young collector, treating as it does in a concise and yet attractive and perfectly intelligible manner the copper coinage of Europe, it will prove no less acceptable in the hands of the more advanced student. The illustrations, as in the preceding volumes, are notably excellent, many having been drawn by the author himself from examples in his own possession, and they will readily enable the collector to identify such coins as may excite his inquiry. The author has produced a book which may well serve as a model of its kind, and the publishers have offered it at a price which places it within the reach of all.